

PBSC –University of Victoria Chapter

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2014-2015 PBSC-UVic Project List

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with PBSC-UVic! We are an organization of students across the country who are passionate about access to justice, law reform, and wide-reaching access to legal information. **Applications are due by 4:00pm on Tuesday, September 23rd.** Selected students must be available to attend General Training on October 1^{st} from 12:00 - 1:30, and Westlaw LRW training on November 17^{th} from 12:00 - 1:30.

We have instituted a few program changes for the 2014-15 volunteer year. First and foremost, you will see that we have joined some of the bigger PBSC chapters in creating <u>Volunteer Coordinator</u> positions for larger projects. These individuals are to serve as "point persons" for the organization, lawyer supervisor, and PBSC coordinators, and will manage all student work on the project. They will be heading up the given placement, and in doing such will gain valuable professional skills and contacts in the field. These positions are created for upper-year students with an interest in practicing in the given area of law, and are valuable opportunities to network and do very meaningful work in the area. Highly-qualified first year students will also be considered for VC positions, and are encouraged to apply as well.

Volunteer Coordinators will also be invited to sit on the newly formed <u>PBSC-UVic Executive</u> alongside the program coordinators, media officer, and Community Builders. Our chapter is growing quickly, and we know that VCs can offer on-the-ground insight into how we can continue to expand and improve our program offerings. Executive members will also be invited to assist in student training and serve as leaders in building our PBSC-UVic community. Interested volunteers serving on non-VC projects are also invited to apply to join the executive after they have been selected for volunteering.

Alongside all our regular project placements, first-year students are also encouraged to apply for the new <u>Community Builder</u> positions, particularly if they are interested in joining the PBSC-UVic Executive. These individuals should be outgoing, positive, supportive members of the UVic community, and will serve as ongoing resources for all PBSC-UVic students. CBs will also assist in planning events, fundraising, and generally bringing PBSC-UVic volunteers together.

Thank you again for your interest in PBSC! Please let us know if you have any questions about our program, the application process, or any of our projects!

Warmest regards,

Kayleigh Harrison and Victoria Merritt Program Coordinators



Access to Justice

014-01 Canadian Bar Association (CBA)

Organization: The CBA is the essential ally and advocate of all members of the legal profession; it is the voice for all members of the profession and its primary purpose is to serve its members; it is the premier provider of personal and professional development and support to all members of the legal profession; it promotes fair justice systems, facilitates effective law reform, promotes equality in the legal profession and is devoted to the elimination of discrimination; the CBA is a leading edge organization committed to enhancing the professional and commercial interests of a diverse membership and to protecting the independence of the judiciary and the Bar.

Project: Envisioning Equal Justice Project

Details: This is a joint project of CBA and PBSC. The CBA will provide direction and training to students from PBSC chapters in designated law schools, and ask them to research, primarily on-line, all services offering legal help in their respective jurisdictions. Students will be asked to provide a brief description of the specific services offered, and identify who is offering and who can take advantage of those services. CBA will create a structure for students to present this information, and for organizing the various initiatives. This structure will be consistent with the major headings and format of the CBA reports; Facilitating Everyday Justice; Transforming Formal Justice; Reinventing the Delivery of Legal Services; Building Public Engagement and Participation; Building a Coherent Civil Justice System; and Building Capacity for Justice Innovation. CBA will then present these resources on its website in way that encourages use by a broad audience.

Required: 2 students. Preference will be given to upper-year students, but first years with research experience are also encouraged to apply. Students must be available to attend mandatory training on October 10th.

Property/Environmental Law

014-02 Land Trust Alliance

Organization: The Land Trust Alliance of BC develops educational, research and resource programs that help conservation groups steward, protect and restore BC's natural and cultural diversity.

Project: Liability for Land Trusts Project

Details: Students will prepare a legal memo on the liabilities facing land trust holders with regards to trespass law and personal injury. Students will explore variances in liability based on development of the land as well as other factors within this complex area of tort and real property law. Specific avenues of research will be further defined with the lawyer supervisor, but will include research into the common law of trespass, a review of the BC Trespass Act, enclosure and fencing, posting notice, and injury on land subsequent to trespass.

Required: 3 students, one of whom will serve as **Volunteer Coordinator** for both LTA projects.



Law, Legislation and Policy

014-03 Land Trust Alliance

Organization: The Land Trust Alliance of BC develops educational, research and resource programs that help conservation groups steward, protect and restore BC's natural and cultural diversity.

Project: Anti-Spam Legislation Project

Details: Students will research the new Anti-Spam Legislation as it relates to non-profit organizations. Students will conduct a thorough review of the legislation, as well as supplementary materials drafted by non-profit coalitions, in order to draft a memo of best-practice recommendations to the organization.

Required: 2 students.

014-04 PEERS

Organization: PEERS provides support, resources, and programs specifically for past and current sex workers of any gender. The organization also offers assistance with housing, training & volunteering opportunities, as well as advocacy and public education around the issue of adult sex work.

Project: The Legislative Process and Opportunities for Advocacy – The Bedford Laws

Details: Expanding on the work done by the past year's volunteers on the *Bedford* decision, students will research, condense, and draft an accessible document explaining the legislative process as it relates to the new legislation regarding the regulation of sex work in Canada following the *Bedford* recommendations. This document will set out how the legislative process works, and how this process can be affected by an election year, with an eye to opportunities for advocacy as legislation moves through this process.

Required: 2 students.

014-05 Access UVic

Organization: Access UVic (formerly the Society for Students with Disabilities) has worked to ensure that the political voice of students with disabilities is heard on our UVic campus since the early 1980s. The focus of the organization is advocacy work, driven by a vision for an accessible and inclusive university.

Project: Disability Services "White Paper" Project

Details: In 2013, the B.C. government launched province-wide public consultations regarding disability services in the province. While these submissions were originally intended for a White Paper, the government ultimately instead released a Ten Year Action Plan on disability services. In this project, students will use the resources amassed for the original call for submissions to develop a White Paper-style research document which the organization will be able to use for future advocacy for legislative reform in line with the values, goals and aspirations of the disability community.



Disability Law

014-06 Action Committee of People with Disabilities (ACPD)

Organization: Action Committee of People with Disabilities provides people with disabilities with free information, educational materials, and other services concerning the rights and responsibilities of disabled individuals. These include, but are not limited to services offered by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and other governmental institutions.

Project: Disability Services Assistance Internship Placement

Details: Students will assist the organization with research support and file assembly assistance for individuals with disabilities for whom they advocate. Students will provide research support and assistance on a wide range of government processes such as Provincial and Federal Disability Applications, Reconsiderations and Tribunals, Human Rights Complaints, Subsidized Housing Applications, and Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution. Students will also provide legal information to clients regarding the legal rights and responsibilities of individuals with disabilities on an as-needed basis.

Required: 2 students.

014-07 Action Committee of People with Disabilities (ACPD)

Organization: Action Committee of People with Disabilities provides people with disabilities with free information, educational materials, and other services concerning the rights and responsibilities of disabled individuals. These include, but are not limited to services offered by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and other governmental institutions.

Project: Review of View Towers Reno-Eviction

Details: On May 15, 2014, a fire in the View Towers building in downtown Victoria displaced more than 50 low-income individuals. What followed was an extensive renovation of the building, resulting in the eviction of the displaced persons. Students will conduct a thorough review of the View Towers fire and frustration-eviction, with a focus on what was done and what responses could have been used with an eye to future advocacy for low-income and disabled individuals in similar situations.



Family Law

014-08 Choices Adoption and Counselling Services

Organization: Choices is a non-profit, non-sectarian licensed adoption agency that offers a range of services to birth parents and adoptive parents throughout British Columbia.

Project: Legal Rights and Responsibilities of Birth Fathers Memo and Pamphlet

Details: Students will work to create both an internal-use, memo-style document on the rights and obligations of birth fathers with regards to domestic adoptions as well as a plain-language pamphlet on the topic for public use.

Required: 2 students (one of whom will serve as **Volunteer Coordinator** for both placements with Choices).

014-09 Communica: Dialogue and Resolution Services Society

Organization: Communica helps individuals, groups and communities to resolve conflict by providing information and referrals, arbitration, coaching, mediation, facilitation and community training.

Project: Supporting Vulnerable Families Through the Changes in Family Law

Details: The project will consist of one group with two teams working on two components. One component will consist of plain language legal information summaries of relevant sections of the recent Family Law Act. The second component will be assisting with the design and development of a subsidized parenting coordination pilot program. The design and development of the parenting coordination pilot program will include work relating to funding structure, Intake criteria and process, Service Delivery model and referrals, and documents and forms. Both components will involve developing a list of relevant community supports and resources, such as students, family justice counsellors, and lawyers.

Required: 4 students (one of whom will serve as **Volunteer Coordinator** for both project components).

014-10 Legal Services Society of BC

Organization: The Legal Services Society (LSS) is a non-profit organization created by the LSS Act in 1979 to provide legal information, advice, and representation services to people with low incomes.

Project: LiveHelp Project

Details: LiveHelp is an instant messaging service that the LSS has added to their Family Law Website (FLWS) so clients can ask questions and receive legal information online regarding family law issues in general as well as how to access information on the FLWS in particular. Students involved in this project will provide remote online support to staff at LiveHelp and research support to update, revise and continue to expand the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) information database.

Required: 4 students, one of whom will serve as Volunteer Coordinator. Project for upper-year students. Preference will be given to students who have taken/are taking Family Law.



Family Law Cont.

014-11 Young Parents Support Network

Organization: The Young Parents Support Network works to meet the needs of the young parent community through parenting programs and groups, as well as one-to-one services for young and expecting parents facing challenges in their lives.

Project: Victoria Family Law Roadmap Project

Details: One of the greatest challenges to individuals in family law is simply how to navigate the system. This hurdle is greatest for low-income individuals who face intersecting challenges and different levels of assistance under the family law system. Students will work to create a "roadmap" of family law services in BC and specifically here in Victoria. Students will visualize their way through the system, with the assistance of their supervising lawyer and other family law contacts, detailing in plain language what the different options and resources are at each turn in the road.

Required: 2 students.

Poverty Law

014-12 Our Place

Organization: Our Place offers street-involved, impoverished, and marginalized Victorians a place to call their own. The organization strives to create a nurturing atmosphere of home and family, where all are welcome as they are and can experience a sense of hope and belonging. Our Place Society offers 1,400 meals per day, a safe and dignified area for people to shower, clean clothing and personal hygiene materials, computer access, recreation activities, as well as 45 transitional housing units for the most vulnerable citizens of Greater Victoria.

Project: Know Your Rights – Tenants' Rights, Responsibilities, and Challenges

Details: Students will prepare two Public Legal Education (PLE) presentations for members of the Our Place family regarding tenancy rights and obligations. The first PLE will focus on an overview of tenants' and landlords' rights and obligations under the law, with subtopics including application requirements, inspections, deposits, and procedures for ending a tenancy. The second PLE will focus on the more complex area of resolving tenant-landlord disputes, both independently and through the Residential Tenancy Branch. Presentations will be in an approachable, plain language format, and will present material from both sides of the tenant-landlord relationship to provide Our Place family members with a complete picture of their legal rights.



Poverty Law Cont.

014-13 Rainbow Kitchen

Organization: The Rainbow Kitchen provides a nutritious hot lunch to approximately 125-140 people each day, 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Aside from providing nourishment to impoverished and marginalized individuals and families, Rainbow Kitchen emphasizes the impact conversation and unity can have in the lives of individuals in our community who otherwise have little opportunity for personal interaction in their day.

Project: Risk Management Project Expansion

Details: Students will work to expand the organization's internal materials on risk management. Volunteers will review pertinent jurisprudence and legislation to prepare a memo on the topic of volunteer waivers for non-profit organizations in Canada. Sub-topics include the use of waivers for minor versus adult volunteers, indirect versus direct risks, and a thorough review of common law jurisprudence regarding the effectivity of waivers.

Required: 2 students.

014-14 Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)

Organization: TAPS is a not-for-profit organization in Victoria providing free, face-to-face legal advocacy for people with income assistance, disability benefits and tenancy issues.

Project: Tenant Advocacy Project

Details: The student volunteer will assist the Tenant Advocacy Project by providing direct client advocacy under close lawyer and advocate supervision. This will include providing legal information for tenants about the BC Residential Tenancy Act and other applicable legislation, and assisting with legal advocacy on behalf of clients at Residential Tenancy Branch dispute resolution hearings.

Required: 2 students – project for upper-year students only.

014-15 Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)

Organization: TAPS is a not-for-profit organization in Victoria providing free, face-to-face legal advocacy for people with income assistance, disability benefits and tenancy issues.

Project: Tenancy Research Assistant

Details: One student will assist the organization by providing research support for municipal and provincial housing legislative reform. The student will produce research memos throughout the year as well as contribute to a potential policy proposal.

Required: 1 student. Preference will be given to upper-year applicants or first-year students with extensive research experience.



Poverty Law Cont.

014-16 Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)

Organization: TAPS is a not-for-profit organization in Victoria providing free, face-to-face legal advocacy for people with income assistance, disability benefits and tenancy issues.

Project: Right to Food Constitutional Litigation Project

Details: One student will provide research support for potential litigation regarding the constitutional right to food and for an intervener application into a constitutional case on the charter rights of the homeless. These are ongoing projects that TAPS is working on under the immediate supervision of TAPS' lawyer and will involve working with private pro bono lawyers.

Required: 1 student. Preference will be given to upper-year students.

Business Law

014-17 Victoria Advanced Technology Council (VIATeC)

Organization: The Victoria Advanced Technology Council (VIATeC) is a non-profit society that exists to connect people knowledge and resources in order to grow a successful technology sector in the Victoria area.

Project: Financing Your Start-Up: Legal Perspectives

Details: Following on the Start-Up Toolkit developed by PBSC volunteers last year, this project will delve into all subjects related to investment in start-up and early-stage technology companies from the founders' perspective. Possible topics include term sheets (a discussion of all standard terms), equity, debt, preferential rights, multiple founders, stakeholder agreements, and vesting/reverse vesting. The deliverable will be a plain-language guide to each topic with an eye to the small-business owners who will ultimately be utilizing the information. At the completion of the project, students will give a one-hour presentation to small-business owners in the VIATeC Accelerator program.

Required: 4 students, one of whom will serve as Team Leader.

Elder Law

014-18 Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)

Organization: TAPS is a not-for-profit organization in Victoria providing free, face-to-face legal advocacy for people with income assistance, disability benefits and tenancy issues.

Project: Seniors PLE Project Coordinator

Details: One student will assist with researching, developing, and conducting public legal education presentations to Victoria's senior population. This is a new project that will involve identifying legal issues as they pertain to older tenants, developing presentation materials, networking with community partners, and conducting presentations to seniors groups.

Required: 1 student



Criminal Law

014-19 Victoria Restorative Justice Society

Organization: The Victoria Restorative Justice Society is a non-profit, non-government organization and charity that provides restorative dialogues for victims, offenders and the community in the aftermath of crime and other harmful behaviour that occurs in the City of Victoria.

Project: Restorative Justice, Confidentiality, Gender and Youth: Decision Making, Disclosure, and Best Practices

Details: Victoria Restorative Justice Society works extensively with youth involved in minor to serious offences. Many of these individuals come from tenuous family circumstances and may seek to exercise as high a level of confidentiality as possible in their restorative justice process. Students will work to draft a legal memo on the topic of confidentiality for restorative justice programs regarding issues of parental disclosure and decision-making processes. Under the close supervision of the lawyer supervisor, students will address the scope of confidentiality under the Youth Criminal Justice Act ss. 10, 11, and 26, as well as other sections revealed through their research that engage a duty to notify or disclose. In addition to their work regarding the YCJA, students will consult materials produced by Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond and her office, any relevant material from the office of the Privacy Commissioner, as well as any supplementary material on youth and restorative justice available through the organization.

Students will also infuse all research with considerations of the role of gender in the restorative justice system. Students will therefore discuss the impact confidentiality and disclosure can have on women and children in restorative justice, including considerations of how this impact is varied depending on what role (offender, survivor, family member etc.) women and minors are playing in the restorative justice process.

Required: 3 students, one of whom will serve as Team Leader.

<u>014-20 Victoria Sexual Assault Centre</u> (trigger warning – sexualized violence)

Organization: The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre provides direct support to survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, while also engaging in various prevention activities designed to raise awareness, change attitudes and develop skills for healthy living. The organization supports individuals of all genders, and is proudly trans*-inclusive.

Project: Victim Services Materials Expansion – International Students and Newcomers to Canada Details: Newcomers to Canada, be they students, immigrants, or refugees, are often unfamiliar with what is considered sexual assault in Canada. Their home countries may not make certain things – such as intimate partner violence or child abuse – illegal, or may not provide legal recourses for survivors of sexual violence. Students will work to create two plain language documents – one for international students and one for new Canadians – on the topic of what constitutes sexual assault in Canada.

Required: 3 students, one of whom will serve as a **Team Leader.**



Women's Rights

014-21 National Abortion Federation (NAF Canada)

Organization: The National Abortion Federation is the professional association of abortion providers in North America. They seek to ensure safe, legal, and accessible abortion care, which promotes health and justice for women.

Project: Property Rights and Protest

Details: Abortion providers in Canada frequently encounter situations where would-be protest organizations buy property directly adjacent to the clinic location. Students will research and create a memo on the intersection of property law, right to protest/free speech law, and the legal rights and entitlements of abortion clinics under BC's bubble-zone law.

Required: 2 students.

Human Rights Law

014-22 Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)

Organization: The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) is a national organization with a mandate to promote respect for and observance of fundamental human rights and civil liberties, and to defend, extend and foster recognition of those rights and liberties.

Project: Civil Liberties Rights Watch Blog

Details: Students from every PBSC Chapter in Canada work with a legal or academic mentor to monitor civil liberties issues in a specific area and post an item of factual information to the Rights Watch Blog on a weekly basis. Students will also be encouraged to write opinion pieces on relevant substantive subjects of their choosing and comment on each other's blog posts to start a dialogue on civil liberties issues.

Required: 2 students. This is a project open to upper-years only which was opened for applications in the summer. Both students have already been placed by the PBSC national office.

014-23 Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition

Organization: The Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition is a non-profit community organization with a mission to promote and strengthen local human rights in BC through advocacy, research, education, and by connecting people with resources.

Project: Workers' Rights Info Sheets

Details: Students will work to create info sheets regarding workers' rights in British Columbia. Students will begin their work by consulting with the VIHRC and TAPS advocates regarding common legal issues relating to employment, then develop resources designed to assist the greatest number of people in Victoria and elsewhere on Vancouver Island. Volunteers will conduct much of their work on-site at VIHRC so that they might have opportunities to observe the advocate's work with clients as well as offer research assistance for client files.



Aboriginal Law

014-24 British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)

Organization: BCANDS is an award winning provincial not-for-profit charitable Society serving the unique and diverse disability and health resource / support service needs of the Aboriginal population of British Columbia. BCANDS provides a wide range of disability assistance services to eligible clients and organizations, both within Aboriginal communities and within British Columbia's urban and rural centres.

Project: Board and Band Council Governance Project

Details: Students will research the relevant legislation surrounding Aboriginal board and band council governance requirements, particularly under the recent First Nations Financial Transparency Act. Students will produce an overview of the topic, then narrow this broad area of research by focussing in on how board and band council governance, particularly in the new mandatory transparency system, can potentially impact access to health services for Aboriginal people living in British Columbia. The final deliverable for the project will be a comprehensive report on the topic accompanied by a presentation for local Aboriginal board and band council representatives. **Required:** 2-3 students.

Intellectual Property Law

014-25 Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation

Organization: The Eldercare Foundation is a registered charity that raises and manages funds dedicated to supporting the provision of an enhanced quality of life for elders. The Foundation is a responsive organization, dedicated to enhancing the comfort and quality of life for elders in need in our community. The Foundation also provides leadership for the advancement of support for elders on Vancouver Island.

Project: Legal memo on Intellectual Property for Non-Profit Organizations

Details: Students will work to research and draft a memo-style document for the internal use of the organization regarding copyright, intellectual property, and trademark law. Students will need to research and communicate basics of copyright and trademark law as well as how intellectual property law applies to registered charities.



Citizenship and Immigration Law

014-26 Choices Adoption and Counselling Services

Organization: Choices is a non-profit, non-sectarian licensed adoption agency that offers a range of services to birth parents and adoptive parents throughout British Columbia.

Project: New Country Research Binders

Details: Building on the template created in the last volunteer placement, student volunteers will conduct research to determine the feasibility of opening up adoption arrangements with new partner countries. This research will involve a thorough investigation of the legislation, procedures and customs of each new potential country, as well as an examination of international law relating to child protection, trafficking and immigration. The students will create information binders for each country for which they are assigned research, outlining all steps taken in the research and key findings. The countries for examination are two Hague Convention countries (Swaziland and Thailand) and two non-Hague Convention countries (Uganda and Malawi).

Required: 2 students.

014-27 Inter-Cultural Association (ICA)

including settlement and integration counselling, translation and interpretation, English classes, mentoring, job search assistance and guidance, volunteer matching, and peer support.

Project: Information sessions for clients of the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

*Details: Building on existing resources, students will develop 2 information sessions of 1-2 hour duration for newcomer clients. The first presentation will be on the topic of fraud in Canada, with information about employment law versus contract law, to which newcomer clients may be susceptible due to their lack of familiarity with Canadian systems. The second presentation will be on the topic of family breakdown in Canada, with a special focus on asset division and parenting and guardianship. Areas of focus will be more narrowly defined between the student and ICA staff and the supervising lawyer. Each presentation is to include a simple handout to assist clients and settlement workers in the area.

Organization: The Inter-cultural Association offers services for immigrant and refugee newcomers,

Required: 2 students (at least one upper-year is required).



Citizenship and Immigration Law Cont.

014-28 Victoria Coalition in Support of Temporary Foreign Workers

Organization: Several downtown community organizations, in conjunction with the UVic departments of Political Science and Law, are uniting to assist individuals in Victoria who may be affected by the recent changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers program.

Project: Temporary Foreign Workers Assistance Project

Details: Continuing the work done by a dynamic team of community partners and Victoria *pro bono* lawyers in the summer, students will work to further advance the cause of individuals affected by the changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers program. Students will assist with background research as needed for the lawyers and advocates on the project. They will be preparing for a round-table and other community awareness events.

Required: 2 students.

Chapter Positions

014-29 Community Builders

Project: Community Builders

Details: Students will work to build the PBSC-UVic community by offering support to volunteers, planning events, assisting in training, and facilitating conversation between participants and Program Coordinators. Students will also work to create new fundraising initiatives, social gatherings, and new cross-organization contact systems between volunteers.

Required: 2 students.

014-30 Media and Promotions Officer

Project: Media and Promotions Officer

Details: The social media coordinator is responsible for managing the PBSC-UVic website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. In particular, it is expected that the coordinator will update Facebook weekly, or more frequently, with important program information as well as with interesting news relating to the public interest. The coordinator should also update Twitter frequently, highlighting PBSC accomplishments, sharing relevant news items related to access to justice and offering general commentary about legal developments.